

**TOM COLE**

4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

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DEFENSE

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

**COMMITTEE ON RULES**

**COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

July 2, 2018

JUL 09 2018

FCC Mailroom

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The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Pai:

We are writing today to urge the Commission to carefully consider the effects of clearing C-Band spectrum for wireless services on the operation of the Public Radio Satellite System (PRSS). We understand that public radio representatives have met with you, briefed other Commissioners, and met with FCC Bureau staff involved in this matter to explain public radio's dependence on these C-Band frequencies to deliver programming and public safety information to 42 million Americans each week. Every one of the 1,270 local public radio stations relies on C-Band frequencies to downlink and uplink programming for their respective audiences. According to independent studies conducted for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, there are no current alternatives that replicate the affordability, availability and reliability provided by C-Band satellite service.

In addition to the 450,000 hours of national, regional and local programming annually that depend on public radio access to C-Band frequencies, the PRSS distributes emergency alerting on a national basis, and local stations have established regional emergency networks that rely on C-Band. Providing news and emergency information during times of local, regional and national crises requires public radio operations that are resilient and reliable during very challenging and difficult conditions – even when power grids and other communications networks are down. Public radio's ability to stay on the air during emergencies is closely connected to access to C-Band frequencies.

Our Committee has long been supportive of public radio's satellite-based programming interconnection systems and has provided appropriations to maintain and improve these capabilities. In fact, our current FY 2019 appropriations proposal approves funding for public radio to upgrade its satellite-based, C-Band interconnection system. This significant investment is recognition that there is no alternative means of program distribution that can reach all corners of our country, including rural and remote areas.

We hope that you and your Commission colleagues will proceed with clearing or sharing of C-Band spectrum for wireless use only after you have provided assurances that public radio's indispensable programming services will be protected and unimpaired.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Cole" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

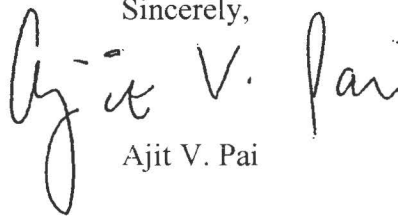
Dear Congressman Cole:

Thank you for your letter on the 3.7–4.2 GHz band, commonly called the C-band. I agree with you that our ability to intensify the use of this band is closely linked to gathering an accurate picture of how this spectrum is currently being used by incumbent earth stations and public radio stations.

That is exactly why Commission staff established a filing freeze on new applications for earth stations on April 19, 2018, and why stations have a 180-day window to register with the Commission and provide certain needed information (such as their locations) for us to proceed with this rulemaking. And that is why the Commission unanimously adopted at our July meeting an information collection targeted to better understanding the use of the band by existing satellite operators. With this information, the Commission hopes to be able to provide the assurances you request that “public radio’s indispensable programming services will be protected and unimpaired.”

Thank you for your continued interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission’s review. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "A" and "P".

Ajit V. Pai